

GROUP-FRIENDLY SERVICE PROJECTS

Volunteer with your friends, group or family!

Are you part of a group that wants to volunteer together? This list will help you determine where you can do the most good - and have some fun - in the time frame you're working with. It's based on past experience - please contact the organizations directly to determine their current needs. Given about a month's notice, many of these organizations would jump at the opportunity to develop a project with your group. If you need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the City of Bloomington Volunteer Network at 349-3472!

Arlington Heights Elementary School

Volunteer groups are needed at various times to improve garden spaces and spread mulch in play spaces. (late summer)

Bloomington Boys and Girls Club – Main facility

Volunteer groups are needed occasionally to spruce up by cleaning, painting and light carpentry. (year round)

Bloomington Boys and Girls Club – Lake Lemon Camp

Volunteer groups are needed at various times to spruce up by mowing, clearing brush, cleaning, painting, and light carpentry. (spring and late summer)

Bloomington Housing Authority

Volunteer groups are always needed to help cleaning out the public housing apartments so that low-income clients can move in sooner. (year round)

Bloomington Parks & Recreation – Adopt-a-Trail

Groups of five or more can adopt a mile of trail. Inspect your trail 2 times/month for a year and perform maintenance as needed. Tools are provided. (Leonard Springs, Griffy Lake, Wapehani, Winslow Woods, Twin Lakes, or Rails to Trails). (year round)

Bloomington Parks & Recreation - Bryan Park Creek Naturalization Project

Groups are needed at various times to help Bloomington earn "Community Wildlife Habitat" certification from the National Wildlife Federation. Native seeds and plants were installed to enhance wildlife habitat, improve wildlife viewing opportunities, reduce mowing and improve the water quality of Bryan Park Creek. Volunteers maintain this natural area by pulling invasive species.

Bloomington Parks & Recreation - Community Garden Projects

Volunteer groups are needed at various times to assist at one of the community garden projects. Garden sites are located at Crestmont Park, Willie Streeter, and the Banneker Community Center. (spring, summer, autumn)

Bloomington Parks & Recreation – Trail clean-up days

Volunteer groups are needed during specified trail clean up days or can often schedule their own (Leonard Springs, Griffy Lake, Wapehani, Winslow Woods, Twin Lakes, or Rails to Trails). (year round)

City of Bloomington Volunteer Network

Volunteer groups are needed any time to organize a collection drive (or, perhaps, a scavenger hunt!) to help meet the material needs of our community's nonprofit organizations. Items large and small are listed on the Community Wish List, found at www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer.

Clear Creek School

The School has a large outdoor area and arboretum in which the students work, but which needs an occasional infusion of volunteer labor to cut down saplings, remove weeds, move rocks and mulch. spring, summer, fall

Community Kitchen

Groups are invited to deep-clean when the kitchen is closed. Young people can also make placemats or other things to brighten up the dining area.

Girl Scouts - Belmont camp

Volunteers patch and paint interior walls, clear brush and beautify in a variety of ways. (transportation needed)

Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County

Volunteer groups work on construction crews or distribute fliers and posters. (year round)

Harmony School

Volunteer groups are needed for scheduled work days or can sometimes schedule their own. Projects involve revitalizing and beautifying the building and grounds. (year round)

Hilltop Garden and Nature Center

Volunteer groups work in garden spaces or in the greenhouses. (spring, summer, fall)

Hoosier Hikers Council Trail Builders

Volunteer groups are needed at various times to build trail. No experience needed! (year round - transportation needed)

Hoosier Hills Food Bank

Volunteer groups are needed at various times to organize a food drive, large or small. Contact the Food Bank, pick a neighborhood or apartment complex, bring bags, and knock on doors. Then deliver the food to the Food Bank or arrange for pickup. (year-round)

Monroe County Citizen's Corps

Assemble door hanger bags of information for distribution in the neighborhoods

Monroe County Humane Association

Make follow up calls to local adoptive families reminding them to spay or neuter their pet and assist them with filling out the forms needed

Monroe County Solid Waste Management District

Your group can provide tender loving care to keep the park maintained. It is a popular place for tours by school and community groups, which are accompanied by education presentations and a tour of the Recycling Center. The Park includes a small stage, model composting bins, a wetland, and an overall exposure to environmental conservation.

Shalom Community Center

Groups are invited to deep-clean when the kitchen is closed. Young people can also make placemats or other things to brighten up the dining area.

Sycamore Land Trust

Projects are usually of the gardening, landscaping, tree planting type. (transportation needed)

WildCare Inc.

Volunteer groups are needed at various times to build or power wash cages or to work on fencing (transportation needed)

Yellowwood State Forest and Morgan-Monroe State Forest

Groups are needed for trail days or to Adopt-a-Lake or Adopt-a-Trail at Yellowwood & Morgan-Monroe State Forests. Lake adoption requires volunteers to pick-up trash at boat ramps, parking areas, and shorelines; and 3 times/year inspect and report lake and dam conditions and remove debris from spillways. (year round - transportation needed)

Other group service opportunities

Festivals

Volunteering at local festivals is a great way to contribute while having fun. Some festivals held in Bloomington are: Multicultural Festival, Juneteenth, Lotus Festival

Fundraising

Accommodating a large group on site is not possible for many nonprofits in town. Sometimes it can be an option to select an organization with which to work and then to coordinate a special event or charitable drive within your organization. The event or presentation of that donation can be attended by group members. For example, conduct a food or clothing drive and then gather to transport the donated items to the food bank or resale shop. The options for this type of volunteer effort are limited only by your imagination.

Holiday Parties

Which holiday doesn't really matter! Volunteer groups enjoy hosting parties for Big Brothers Big Sisters, Girls Inc, or the Boys and Girls Club, and the kids love it!

Nursing Homes and Retirement Centers

Senior living facilities are always in need of friendly faces, and groups are almost always welcome to assist with planned activities. (Bell Trace, Bloomington Hospitality House, Richland Bean Blossom Health Center, Meadowood Health Pavilion) (year round)

Runs and Walks

Organizing a community run or walk takes many, many volunteers. Usually people help with set up, registration, water, crowd control, staffing information booths, take down, as well as joining in the walk or run! Some runs and walks held in Bloomington are: Hoosiers Outrun Cancer, Run for the Endzone, Homeward Bound Walk, Hoosier Hills Food Bank Crop Walk, Bloomington Breakaway Run, America's Walk for Diabetes, Memory Walk (Spring, Summer, Autumn)

Special Events

Anyone will tell you that organizing special events is a lot of work, and volunteers do most of it! You can help with the Gardening and Landscaping Show, Indiana Heritage Quilt Show.

[I/common/cbvn/one sheets group friendly projects](#)

